

CLARINET TIPS

courtesy of



ASSEMBLING THE INSTRUMENT

- ▶ A small amount of cork grease should be applied to the tenon corks the first time the instrument is assembled and any time it feels difficult to put together.
- ▶ Hold the upper section in one hand with the lowest tone hole ring pressed down and the lower section in your other hand making sure not to press on the three-ring key. Using a gentle twisting motion, push the two joints together without allowing the keys to hit one another. Line up the bridge keys on the upper and lower joints.
- ▶ Use a gentle twisting motion to attach the bell to the lower section and the barrel and mouthpiece to the upper section.
- ▶ Attach a reed to the mouthpiece, tightening the ligature to secure it.

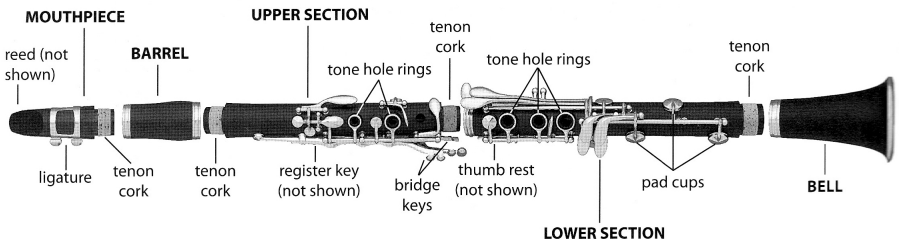


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CARE & MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Avoid eating or drinking (anything other than water) immediately before or while playing the instrument, or brush your teeth first.
- ▶ Use a swab to remove moisture from inside the instrument when you are done playing.
- ▶ Remove the reed after playing and put it in a reed holder.
- ▶ Clean the mouthpiece regularly in warm water using a mouthpiece brush and liquid soap.
- ▶ Store the instrument in its case when not in use.
- ▶ Never balance the clarinet on its bell!
- ▶ Send the instrument to the Ellis Music repair shop at least once a year for routine maintenance.
- ▶ If you have a wooden oboe, avoid extreme temperature/humidity levels and have the instrument professionally oiled once a year.

REED NOTES

- ▶ For beginners, a relatively soft reed (#2 or #2.5) will be easiest for producing a sound. As you gain experience, a stiffer reed will be necessary for improved tone and producing high notes.
- ▶ Clarinet reed strengths vary from #1 to #5. There are many different brands available.



HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE

- Reeds
- Reed holder
- Swab
- Woodwind mouthpiece brush
- Cork grease
- Clarinet stand

Questions?
Contact Ellis Music
802-234-6400
www.ellismusic.com